

Nikita Khrushchev
Chairman, Council of Ministers
USSR

Recent unfortunate developments in international relations encourage me to write you again on the subject I raised in a letter I wrote you last August 8. I regret no one has seen fit to answer my letter. I did not expect a reply from as busy and important a man as you, but I did hope that the appropriate people in the government of the USSR might look with favor upon my proposal and that from them I would receive a reply. I was told on 3 occasions by Soviet representatives in the Embassy in Washington that my letter had been answered. I was also told a copy had been forwarded to Mr. Matskevich and that I could expect to hear from him shortly. But to date I have not. In my letter I proposed a competition involving myself and any individuals, group or groups in the Soviet Union in poultry husbandry, a field I described as by its nature the most peaceful. I hoped by this peaceful competition that perhaps a profitable exchange and even slightly improved relations and increased understanding of each by the other might come to pass. Certainly, we might one or the other of us learn something from it, perhaps how to raise better chickens, or how to raise good chickens at less cost.

I conclude, not having heard anything, that the Soviet Union does not want to engage in such a competition and, if that is the case, in order that subsequently ^{might be} ~~nothing should~~ ^{could} be done that ~~might~~ prove embarrassing, at the same time I would like to suggest that I was not being too immodest in issuing such a challenge and in recounting in what we have been able to do, I would like to offer any knowledge we might have to you. We have been able to raise chickens of both sexes to an average live weight of 3 pounds in 48 days. We have been able to reduce the cost of the feed for finishing these chickens by as much as 1/3. We have evolved a formulation for making

chickens grow 15% faster during the finishing period and at the same time yield an addl 4% of edible meat. This involved an expensive ration, but on an extremely cheap ration which we have developed, we have been able to make chickens grow 10% faster and at a saving of 25% in feed cost for the finishing period. We have been able to get chickens big enough to make individual servings in slightly over 4 weeks and in as little as 35 days we have been able to make chickens reach a weight of approximately a lb and a half ready to cook. These latter figures refer to some of the best results, but they do indicate what we have been able to do with methods we have developed ourselves. By "ourselves" I mean my wife and I. We operate our small poultry farm by ourselves and do everything from hatching to delivering the finished product, some of which are even ready to eat.

Our work has been based upon changing the metabolism of the chicken by the use of approved hormones. Recently I read in a newspaper of the work of a Soviet scientist working in human medicine who thought beneficial results might result from the use of hormones. I regret I do not remember his name.

I have gone to the trouble of writing you again because I do sincerely believe that more than ever peaceful and mutually beneficial relations are necessary and desirable.

At the time of your visit to this country, we had been led to believe that possibly some of your party might visit us. We regret this was not possible. But I would like to repeat to you an offer I made to one of the men in the embassy of a gift from us to some of your children's camps of which we saw pictures on our television. We raise a beautiful domestic wild duck coming originally from France and known as "Beuen". We have been breeding them to bring out a sport of a tuft or topknot on the head which makes them even more attractive, especially to children. If it

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would be possible for this gift to be accepted, we would like to offer it again for next spring when we hope again to have some of the young or perhaps, if you would prefer, some of the eggs. These ducks are weather-hardy in the climate of the Washington area and can and do live outside all winter.

Sincerely yours,